

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01229 241604Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /062 W

-----102316 250242Z /73-65

R 241230Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 619

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, GB, OAU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO DEPT, I LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY BE PLANNING UNDERTAKE VISIT TO CERTAIN FRANCO-PHONE AFRICAN STATES IN NEAR FUTURE. IF THIS VISIT IS NOW TAKING SHAPE, I STRONGLY URGE THAT LIBREVILLE BE INCLUDED ON HIS ITINERARY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. PRESIDENT BONGO IS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF OAU. ON THIS GROUND ALONE, HE WOULD BE VERY UNLIKELY TO UNDERSTAND A VISIT TO FRANCOPHONE STATES THAT DID NOT INCLUDE LIBREVILLE. DEPT IS ALREADY AWARE OF BONGO'S PUBLIC CHIDING OF USG FOR SUPPOSED LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH OAU CHAIRMAN AT TIME OF PRES CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA. CRITICISM, AS DEPT WILL RECALL, ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG. TO IGNORE HIM THIS TIME AROUND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BADLY INTERPRETED.

2. BONGO IS PRESIDENT OF ESSENTIALLY MODERATE AFRICAN STATE AND HAS BEEN CLOSER TO OUR VIEWS ON SUCH ISSUES AS SOUTHERN AFRICA THAN MANY OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. IF WE WISH BUILD ON OUR RELATIONS WITH MODERATE, GABON, WHICH HAS IN EFFECT ALREADY SAID IT WOULD BE PLEASED WITH A VISIT FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG, IS GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN. GABON, FOR EXAMPLE, AD EPT KNOWS, IS AS CONCERNED WITH CUBAN/SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA AS WE ARE, AND HAS EVEN HAD COURAGE TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01229 241604Z

C. GABON IS CURRENTLY MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND WILL BE NEXT YEAR. SINCE WE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE ASKING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY ON VARIETY OF MATTERS, IT CAN ONLY BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE FOR PERMANENT MEMBER OF COUNCIL TO VISIT HERE, AND CONVERSELY TO OUR POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGE IF VISIT TO NEARBY FRANCO-PHONE STATES DOES NOT INCLUDE LIBREVILLE. IN THIS REGARD, BONGO MAY IN A SENSE BE MORE USEFUL TO US AFTER HIS

TENURE AS OAU CHAIRMANSHIP IS FINISHED BECAUSE HE WILL BE  
RELEASED FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF HAVING TO TEMPER HIS VIEWS  
AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR ALL AFRICA AND THUS POSSIBLE WILLING TO  
SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES IN TERMS MORE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR OWN POSITION.  
D. USG DEVOTES FEW RESOURCES TO GABON. WE THEREFORE  
MUST RELY ON MORE TRADITIONAL DEPLOMACY TAILORED TO MUTUAL  
CONCERNS AND INTERESTS. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE ASSET NOW IN  
BONGO'S FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP WITH PRES CARTER AS RESULT HIS TWO  
MEETINGS WITH HIM. I HOPE WE WOULD NOT CONSCIOUSLY ERODE THAT  
FEELING BY OMITTING LIBREVILLE FROM ITINERARY OF CABINET  
OFFICER WHO IS PERCEIVED HERE AS BEING CLOSE TO PRESIDENT.  
3. FINALLY, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO ASK FOR  
BONGO'S HELP ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO US (MOST RECENTLY WAS  
REQUEST FOR REFUELING OF C-141S EN ROUTE TO ZAIRE). MORE OFTEN  
THAN NOT, HE HAS COME THROUGH. WE HAVE BEEN LESS ABLE TO RESPOND  
POSITIVELY TO HIS REQUESTS. A VISIT HERE BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG  
AT THIS TIME WOULD BE ONE IMPORTANT WAY OF SAYING "THANK  
YOU" AND WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY BONGO IN THESE TERMS.  
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LIBREV01229  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780220-0263  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LIBREVILLE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780524/aaaaauhz.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6a5fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2589707  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PEPR, GB, OAU, (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6a5fc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014